

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT:CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 2548

1. THE EMBASSY'S TIMELY RESPONSE IS APPRECIATED. WE ARE EXAMINING THE ISSUES YOU RAISED RE THE TIMING OF THE NEGOTIATION OF THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT (PARAS 5 AND 7). HERewith IS AN INTERIM REPLY TO SOME OF YOUR OTHER POINTS.

2.THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF A REFERENCE IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES.

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WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE, WHICH COULD BE

INSERTED JUST BEFORE THE "AGREE AS FOLLOWS":

"REAFFIRMING THEIR DESIRE, IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR PEOPLES, TO CONTRIBUTE IN EUROPE TO PEACE, SECURITY, JUSTICE AND COOPERATION, AS EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE;"

FYI: THIS LANGUAGE IS TAKEN FROM THE FOURTH PARA OF THE FINAL ACT PREAMBLE, AND THUS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CZECHS IN THIS FORM. SHOULD THE CZECHS WISH TO CHANGE THE REFERENCE TO CSCE, WE WOULD WISH TO REVIEW THEIR PROPOSED LANGUAGE CAREFULLY. END FYI.

3. NSF DOES NOT HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHS; THEIR 1974 DRAFT CAN BE SUBMITTED, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY, TO THE CZECHS ONCE WE HAVE COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT.

4. WE NOTE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK INDICATED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN THAT A "LIBRARY" -- I.E., CULTURAL CENTER OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY -- IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF (PRAGUE 2641). FROM OUR VIEW, THE INCLUSION OF A CENTER IN THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WOULD MOVE THAT PROPOSAL A LITTLE FURTHER OUT FRONT THAN WE WOULD LIKE IN ANY CASE. WE DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION OF OPENING A CENTER SHOULD BE RAISED ORALLY DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS UNDER ARTICLE I. THE CZECHS COULD BE SOUNDED OUT ON THE IDEA SO THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE EXPERTS MAY BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF CULTURAL CENTERS IN DETAIL.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DRAFT CAN NOW BE TABLED AS SOON AS THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO DO SO.

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